

REMARKS

In the Office Action of June 21, 2004, all of the pending claims were rejected. Herein, claims 53, 66, 71, 80-98, and 100 are cancelled, and claims 32, 67-70, 72, 77, 78, 79, 99, and 102-106 are amended. Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

A. Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 67, which has been amended to the form suggested by the Examiner.

B. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 32, 66, 70, 71, 79, 87, 99, and 100 were rejected as anticipated by Hirasawa (U.S. Pat. 6,250,552). Many of these claims have been cancelled.

Regarding claim 32, it is submitted that Hirasawa lacks claim 32's feature of *"a data head reciprocally movable along a first linear path that is parallel to the plurality of parallel linear data tracks* when the plurality of parallel linear data tracks are respectively positioned for signal communication with the data head." Instead of having data heads reciprocally moveable along a path parallel to parallel linear data tracks, Harasawa's "magnetic heads 40, 50 ... are supported such that they can move in the direction *orthogonal to the card surface* which conforms to the waves/warps of card 21" See col. 5, line 30 et seq. During signal communication, Harasawa's heads 40, 50 are stationary in the direction of Harasawa's data tracks. See col. 7, line 39 et seq. Accordingly, claim 32 is not anticipated by Harasawa.

Regarding claim 99, it is submitted that Hirasawa lacks claim 99's feature of:

a data head operable to communicate the signals with the magnetic material,

wherein a first relative movement of the data head and the magnetic material causes the data head to be positioned over a first linear data track in the magnetic material, so that said signals can be communicated between the data head and the first linear data track during a first linear movement of the data head parallel to the first linear data track, and

wherein a subsequent second relative movement of the data head and the magnetic material causes the data head to be positioned over a second linear data track in the magnetic material, the second linear data track being parallel to the first linear data track, so that said signals can be communicated between the data head and the second linear data track during a second linear movement of the data head parallel to the second linear data track.

Harasawa lacks such a feature because, although Harasawa's head 50 reads parallel data tracks (see col. 5, line 59), all of the data tracks are read/written in a single movement of the card 21 relative to head 50. See col. 7, lines 39-46.

Accordingly, claims 32 and 99 are not anticipated. Claims 66, 70, 71, 79, 87, and 100 are dependent on one of claim 32 and 99, and also are not anticipated.

C. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 53, 67-69, 72-76, 78, 80-86, 88, 89, 90-98, and 101-106 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over a combination of references. All of the combinations included Harasawa.

Many of the rejected claims have been cancelled. All of the remaining claims are dependent on one of claims 32 and 99, which distinguish Harasawa for the reasons stated above. Accordingly, the obviousness rejections over Harasawa and the other references also must be withdrawn.

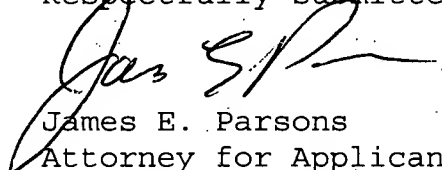
D. Related Applications

The Examiner's attention is directed to co-pending patent applications 09/654,542 and 09/663,658, which claim priority to the same parent application.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the rejections of the claims should be withdrawn for the reasons stated above, and the application passed to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, or wishes to propose an amendment that would render the application allowable, please telephone the undersigned at (408) 451-5906.

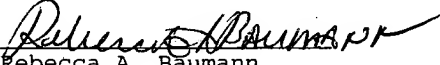
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST CLASS MAIL in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 15, 2004.

Date: 7/15/2004 Signature: 
Rebecca A. Baumann